

Record

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Hope seen as dust settles in Kenya blast

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — White dust so thick it appears to be snow. Stench emanating from places yet uncovered. Fatigued people working like automatons just to finish the gruesome work.

The dust is settling now, but the memories are not soon forgotten by missionary Jon Sapp. Like Pompeii rising from the ashes, so hope is emerging from the rubble that used to be the Ufundi House. The building was leveled Aug. 7 in a terrorist explosion targeting the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi.

"Three people we know of have come to know the Lord as their Savior since then," said Sapp, regional leader for Southern Baptist International Mission Board work in Eastern Africa. "So out of this death experience there is new life here in Nairobi."

The prospect of new spiritual life gives the Wichita, Kan., native much-needed encouragement on the one-week anniversary of the day he worked at the bomb site next to the embassy. It provides a spark in an otherwise dreary Nairobi, where gray skies cover the land as victims of the blast are laid to rest each day.

Misty rain falls as frequently as tears.

"I'm now to the dream stage," Sapp said, his blue eyes glazed after being unable to fall asleep the night before. "Just a normal part of dealing with post-traumatic stress."

A missionary in Nairobi since 1991, Sapp's positive attitude about stress belies the horrors he encountered the night of Aug. 11. He and missionary colleague Ted Davis joined a Kenyan Red Cross worker and a member of the Kenya army in digging bodies from the rubble. Of 24 bodies found that last night of searching, their team found 16.

"What I saw was people who had died



SEARCHING FOR SURVIVORS — Rescue workers search through rubble shortly after the Aug. 7 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. Several Southern Baptist missionaries left a prayer retreat so they could minister to workers looking for survivors. (BP photo by Matt Jones)

instantly. However, working with the Kenyan Red Cross gave us a chance to use our language (Swahili) and preserve the dignity of the victims. Probably the most important thing we did was work with the Kenyans," Sapp said.

"I never experienced any comments or actions expressing their distrust or disapproval of our presence," Sapp said, taking issue with reports of anti-American sentiment. Other American workers expressed similar feelings of acceptance at the site.

In fact, the Kenyan army invited Sapp and his team to breakfast. "Shoulder to shoulder, it was an excellent experience," Sapp said.

The hardest part of

the ordeal for Sapp is knowing that three bodies are unidentified, he said. "We sang a song the next morning, 'He Knows Our Name.' It was very touching for me that there are people that only the Lord knows their name."

Sapp expressed gratitude for the outpouring of prayer and concern for missionaries in Tanzania and Kenya. "Southern Baptists across America did all they could to find out how missionaries were, and we are grateful no one in those missions were hurt," he said.

"Please continue to pray for church members here as we make contact with extended family members or friends of those injured or touched by the tragedy, that we take this opportunity to talk about the hope only Christ can bring in this devastating event."

Baptists respond to China flood

DALLAS (BP) — Thousands of Chinese driven from their homes by record floods are drinking safe, pure water thanks to Southern Baptist world hunger funds.

More than 5 million houses have been destroyed and 52 million acres of land inundated by the worst flooding in 44 years in central and northeast China. Raging rivers have inundated wells.

The death toll from the ongoing disaster had topped 3,000 by Aug. 26 with no end in sight to the flooding.

In response to the need, two veteran Texas Baptist Men disaster relief volunteers left Aug. 13 for the city of Wuhan in central China, carrying water purification equipment and 200,000 two-gallon plastic bags to hold purified water. The project was launched at the request of local Chinese officials in China and was facilitated by an American Christian studying in that area.

Mel Goodwin of Kilgore, Texas, and Jim Pinkston of Edgewood, Texas, took two water purification units purchased with \$24,000 from the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, said Bill Cashion, a Southern Baptist hunger and relief consultant. The two portable units are capable of purifying up to 15,000 gallons of water per day. Goodwin owns the water filtration company that built the units.

An additional \$10,000 released from the World Hunger Fund will buy food and medicines to combat hunger-related and water-borne diseases.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

WMU, Habitat seal pact

Sign up early for SBC

Clinton resignation called

Lackey Offering set

Looking back

10 years ago

The Southern Baptist Convention's Public Affairs Committee (PAC) requests \$75,500 from the convention for 1989-90 during the September Executive Committee meeting in Nashville. As a standing committee, the PAC does not normally have a budget.

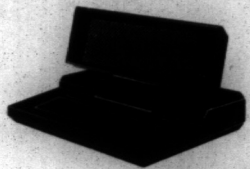
20 years ago

Officials of United Gas Pipe Line Company and Mississippi College (MC) announce plans for the donation of the United Gas building in downtown Jackson to the college as the new home for the MC law school. The \$4.5 million building is located on 1.7 acres on East Griffith Street.

50 years ago

Second Ave. Church, Laurel, announces plans for a new three-story brick education building, with construction costs estimated at \$125,000, according to Leonard Melvin, chairman of the church's building committee.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Just like you and me

Summer is beginning to wane, and that means many church budget committees are finalizing their proposals for the next fiscal year. Utilities have been estimated. Replacement cost of the old van has been figured in. Money for new hymnals has been set aside.

Everything covered? Not if you've forgotten your pastor and church staffers. Did you remember their needs?

Ask that question in Mississippi churches from the largest to the smallest, and the response can often be a facial expression somewhere between confessional and embarrassed.

Simply put, there is no excuse for taking care of everything else and failing year after year to take care of the church's pastor and staffers. That's happening in too many of our churches.

To paraphrase the message sometimes found at the bottom of the bill we forget to pay, "Please disregard this notice if you already taken care of this matter. Thank you."

Well, please disregard this notice if your church has already taken care of this matter. If your church hasn't already taken care of this matter, there are some solid reasons to read on.

The people who serve in our churches have the same aspirations as everyone else — nothing more, nothing less. They hope to provide their loved ones with the essentials of life.

They pray that their little ones will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. They desire to see their children educated on the way to a good start in their adult lives.

They want to excel at their profession and maybe, if they do a good job, someone will recognize them for their work and maybe, they'll be recognized in an appropriate financial way.

See, just like you and me.

It is not unspiritual to expect church members to support their pastors and church staffers. It is not unbiblical to see to



it that pastors and church staffers earn a decent living.

It is not unreasonable to provide for our pastors and church staffers as we expect our employers to provide for us. That means adequate salary and as many benefits — health, disability, retirement, expenses, etc. — as can possibly be afforded.

One of the most twisted phrases in church life today has to be, "God will provide," when used as an excuse not to adequately compensate our church workers.

God will indeed provide for them, but it is entirely possible that God intends to provide for them through the church budget processes of salary and benefits.

Mike Clingenpeel, editor of Virginia Baptists' Religious Herald news journal and a pastor for 17 years, said in a recent editorial on this subject, "God doesn't print money, but God does inspire people to give it to God's laborers to compensate them for their labors."

These highly educated men and women, many of whom unquestionably have the talents to be successful in the secular world, materially have given up much to answer God's call.

They wouldn't take a million dollars to do anything else, so isn't it reasonable to consider paying them acceptable wages? Isn't it equally reasonable to reconsider their wages on an annual basis?

All churches will not be financially able to pay their workers what they're worth.

That's a fact, but a fact that doesn't absolve us of our responsibility to do as much for our pastors and church staffers as we possibly can.

Money is not the reason they do what they do for us, but it takes money to help them realize all their hopes and dreams — and to help them feel a sense of accomplishment and recognition for a job well done.

Just like you and me.

GUEST OPINION



Will we see you 'At the Pole?'

By Don Lum, youth specialist
MBCB Evangelism Dept.

It's almost 7 a.m. and no one else has arrived when he pulls into the school parking lot. Anticipation and excitement mix with a touch of apprehension as he gets out of his car and heads toward the school flag pole.

For weeks he has looked forward to this moment when students across our nation and world would be gathering to join in prayer for their classmates, teachers, and administrations.

Thoughts begin to bombard his mind. "Will I be by myself? Did the others oversleep or get scared? What if I'm the only one? What will I do?"

Then, familiar scriptures pop into his mind "...and lo, I am with you always," "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

As he draws closer, the words of his Sunday School teacher ring loud in his ears: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven."

One by one they begin to arrive and as the numbers grow, the excitement builds — young men and women each willing to take a stand that others may know that Christ is their Lord. They join together in singing and praying as they ask God to

bless their school and help them to be bold for him.

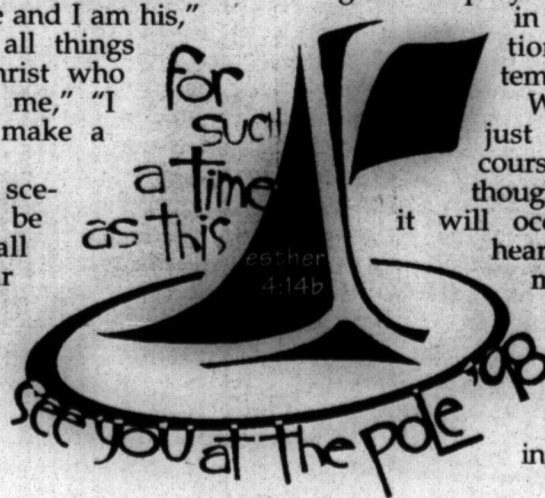
The bell rings, and as they leave in different directions they go with a renewed sense of purpose and confidence: "Our God is alive and I am his," "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," "I really can make a difference."

Similar scenarios will be repeated all across our state and nation on the morning of Sept. 16, as stu-

dents gather to pray.

Last year over 20,000 students and adults participated in Mississippi. Will you join with that number this year as we gather to pray for everyone in our educational systems?

What you've just read is of course fictitious, though in reality it will occur in the hearts and minds of teenagers throughout our state on the morning of Sept. 16.



See You At The Pole is a movement of God among the teenagers of the 90's that has spread from one small group in Texas to six continents and thousands of young men and women who have chosen to publicly show their love and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Here in Mississippi alone over 20,000 students on over 200 campuses will gather to pray and honor God.

Why do they do it? Because they love God, because they have been taught that honoring God is both a public and private matter, because they care about their schools, and because they know that anything without God is doomed to failure.

Praise God for Mississippi Baptists who make it a priority to devote time and resources in training our youth to know and love God.

This week, take a few moments to thank those in your church who give of themselves to help your teenagers grow up to be Godly young adults.

Join us wherever you are at 7 a.m. on Sept. 16, in praying for our students and schools across Mississippi and America.

WMU/Habitat partner for housing blitz

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

"Everybody bring a hammer," said Nina Redding of the Metro Jackson Habitat for Humanity to a group of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) leaders gathered in Jackson on September 14.

In six days during July 1999, women from Miss. WMU and around the country will build two houses in Jackson as part of an eight-house, seven-state building blitz.

The project is being jointly conducted by the national WMU, an auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and Habitat for Humanity International (HHI), according to Delane Tew, volunteer connection specialist for the national WMU office.

Tew was in Jackson to train women to serve on local planning committees, which will focus on material and financial donations, ministry events, housing, food, transportation, and publicity.

HHI, a nonprofit ecumenical Christian housing ministry, seeks to "eliminate poverty



PACT SIGNED — Making plans for the July 1999 WMU/Habitat for Humanity housing blitz are (front row, from left): Georganna Keenum and Nina Redding with Jackson Habitat for Humanity; Delane Tew, national WMU volunteer connection specialist; Kay Cassibry, executive director of Miss. WMU; Rebecca Williams, president of Miss. WMU; (back row, from left) Betty Barber, First Church, Clinton; Tammy M. Smith, Parkway Church, Clinton; Jenny Phillips, First Church, Clinton; Lisa Strong, First Church, Jackson; Susie Rawls, Shivers Church, Simpson Association; Donna Swarts, Corinth Church, Corinth; Pat Green, Wynndale Church, Jackson; Elizabeth Toomey, First Church, Brandon; Fran Pickett, Pineview Church, Clinton. (Photo by Carl M. White)

housing and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action," according to the letter of agreement between WMU and HHI.

The inaugural house for the partnership will be built in Birmingham on Sept. 14-21.

Additional houses will be

built July 11 - 17, 1999, in Jackson, Cleveland, Ohio, Portland, Ore., Albuquerque, N.M., and during July 11 - August 14, 1999 in Circleville, W.Va., and Pine Ridge, S.D.

The two Mississippi houses will be built in the West Park and Mid-Town areas of inner-city Jackson.

The houses will cost \$20,000 each, and the entire seven-state project is projected to cost \$258,000.

The national WMU office is responsible for providing volunteers and raising money for this project, according to Tew.

She is asking local committees to assist in raising funds and securing contributions of building materials from suppliers.

"All contributions must go through the national WMU office," Tew said.

HHI will provide the lot and select the partner family — who must participate in the construction process, coordinate and supervise construction and sell the house to the partner

family at no profit and zero-interest, according to the letter of agreement.

The local committees are also responsible for enlisting volunteers.

"Fifty percent of the slots for builders is reserved for Mississippi volunteers on a first come first serve basis," she said. "The other half will be volunteers from all over the country."

All volunteers must register through the national WMU volunteer connection program.

According to Tew, many of the construction spots, which are limited, are already filled.

"We have to help our women know that they are not going to be able to get up that morning and decide to come and help build a house. They must register through volunteer connection," said Rebecca Williams.

In addition, to construction workers, Williams pointed out, the biggest need is going to be for ministry volunteers.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST Record

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MBC deadlines posted

The Baptist Record annually provides readers with a list of official activities and related gatherings for the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC). The 1998 annual meeting and related gatherings are scheduled for Oct. 26-28 at First Church, Jackson, and other venues around the metro area.

The deadline for submitting these activities for announcement in The Baptist Record is at the close of business on Thursday, Sept. 24. Please include:

- ◆ formal name and type of activity.
- ◆ date, time, and location of activity.
- ◆ program speakers.
- ◆ costs of attending and any meals provided (where applicable).

Mail the information to arrive by Sept. 24 to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Information may be faxed to (601) 292-3330, or e-mailed to Missrecord@aol.com. To avoid mistakes, information will not be accepted over the telephone.

Mississippi CP rises 1.1%

With two-thirds of 1998 gone, Mississippi Baptists have given gifts in excess of one-third of a million dollars over their Cooperative Program (CP) budget, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), which disburses the funds.

The August CP total was \$1,814,611, which was \$7,981 more than the amount given in August 1997.

Total giving for January through August of 1998 was \$17,396,774, which was \$189,068 (1.1%) more than the amount given for the same period in 1997.

Compared to the 1998 CP budget of \$25,546,608, Mississippi Baptists have given \$365,702, (2.15%) more than the eight month pro rata budget of \$17,031,072.

The pro rata budget is the amount needed month by month to reach the total budget by year's end.

Miss. CP helps fund such ministries as the Bible Drill clinics next week in six Mississippi cities; the handbell leadership clinic in Madison on Sept. 18; and the Women on Mission celebration at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on Sept. 18-19.

SBC CP up 22% in August

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for August increased more than 22% over the same month a year ago.

The August receipts, \$14,185,671, compared to August 1997, \$11,598,190, are an increase of 22.31% or \$2,587,480. For the 11 months of the SBC fiscal year (October-August) SBC CP gifts total \$147,113,289 compared to the previous fiscal year period of \$141,493,038, an increase of \$5,620,251 (3.97%).

Designated gifts for the month of August totaled \$3,680,315 compared to the same month a year ago of \$3,502,780, an increase of \$177,535 (5.07%). For the SBC fiscal year, the \$148,044,621 in designated gifts compares to \$139,099,299 for the same period in the previous fiscal year, an increase of \$8,945,322 (6.43%).

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the August receipts were \$1,836,915 over the required monthly budget figure of \$12,348,756, a 14.88% increase. For the Allocation Budget fiscal year, with one month to go, the required budget figure of \$135,836,320 has been surpassed by \$11,276,968, or 8.30% above the budget.

MC — preparing for 21st century students

CLINTON (Special) — Mississippi College (MC) has launched full swing into a new academic year. The 173-year-old Baptist institution is enjoying another strong group of entering freshmen and transfers.

"The energy and enthusiasm on campus right now are contagious. Our faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to prepare for returning students and to meet the needs

of our incoming group of freshmen and transfer students," said MC President Howell W. Todd.

"We have built a strong residential population. Our building renaissance continues at an extraordinary rate and our New Dawn campaign contributions now total \$67 million ... moving us more quickly toward our \$80 million goal than we could have ever anticipated. We have much to be thankful for," he said.

Construction is at a fever pitch on the MC campus. A connector building between the Hederman Science Building and Self Hall is underway. It will provide 34,000 square feet of expansion space for the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science as well as for organic chemistry by fall 1999.

With pre-med as one of MC's most popular majors and with the dramatic increases in freshmen for the past three years, considerable demand has been placed on MC's science facilities. The estimated cost is approximately \$5.3 million.

Construction of the new women's residence hall is also underway. The facility is scheduled to be completed in time for fall 1999 occupancy.

Its 472 beds for women will match the standard set by the men's facility constructed in 1996.

Room configuration will consist of two rooms joined by a bathroom. Each room will contain a vanity, and Internet and cable connections. The new residence hall will connect to Mary Nelson on the first floor level by an enclosed corridor. The cost is approximately \$12 million. Upon completion, MC will have space for an estimated 1600 residents.

In addition to new construction, remodeling and updating of existing buildings continues.

MC continues to receive national recognition for the quality of its academic programs and the caliber of its students, ranking 23rd in academic reputation among 123 southern universities in the 1999 edition of U.S. News & World Reports rankings.

MC also ranked in the top tier of southern universities in the overall rankings.

The MC School of Law moot court team placed third in the nation during the American Bar Association National Moot Court Competition in Boston, Mass. An MC team member also won the Outstanding Oralist award for the competition.

Mississippi College has added a top-flight foreign language lab featuring 25 new Sony computer work stations that allow students to work individually or as a group.

A master computer allows the

instructor to interact with, instruct, and monitor the class.

New response analyzer software helps students with pronunciation problems and special cable allows students to watch CNN International to listen to current events in their studied country.



MOVING IN — Bronwyn Roeder (carrying crate) of Dallas, Tex., and Diane Lee (behind, to right) of Crystal Springs, move into the dorm for the start of classes at Mississippi College. (BR special photo)



MAKING PROGRESS — Construction workers prepare to place steel pylons for the new women's residence hall scheduled for completion fall of 1999. (BR special photo)

Early reservation process to begin for SBC in Atlanta

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — For the first time, the official housing request form for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting will be available on the Internet.

The June 15-16, 1999, meeting is at the Georgia Dome in downtown Atlanta.

The housing guide and official request form for the 1999 SBC meeting in Atlanta can be found at the SBC's Internet site — www.sbc.net — on Sept. 8, said Jack R. Wilkerson, convention manager and vice president for business and finance at the SBC Executive Committee.

SBC hotel registration will begin Oct. 1, Wilkerson added.

In addition the SBC housing guide and request form is now available at state Baptist convention offices and the Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn. It also is in the September edition of SBC LIFE, the Executive Committee monthly news journal.

At the Internet site, the housing guide and official request form may be downloaded and completed and then sent to the housing bureau or it can be completed on the computer and sent e-mail to the housing bureau on Oct. 1. By mail, the forms must be postmarked Oct. 1 or after and addressed to ACVB/SBC Housing Bureau, 233 Peachtree Street, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30303. All reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis by the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The housing guide lists 29 hotels/motels in the downtown, midtown, Buckhead, and airport areas as well as their rates for the convention. The convention hotel is the Westin Peachtree Plaza.

Atlanta's MARTA system offers multiple-day, unlimited travel passes that are very reasonably priced, Wilkerson said. Proximity to MARTA was a consideration in the hotel room block selection process.



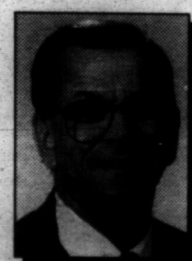
1999 WINTER BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINICS JOSHUA



Dr. Ron Kirkland
Blue Mountain



Dr. Leslie Hughes
Delta State



Dr. Gene Henderson
Baptist Building



Dr. Walter "Chip" Henderson
Youth Leaders
Baptist Building &
William Carey



Dr. Waylon Bailey
William Carey

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

DATES:

Monday, Sept. 28.....Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain
Tuesday, Sept. 29.....BSU Center, Delta State, Cleveland
Wednesday, Sept. 30.....Baptist Building, Jackson
Thursday, October 1.....William Carey College, Hattiesburg

PLACES:

COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH

NO RESERVATION REQUIRED

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LARRY SALTER MBCB, SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
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SBC president calls for Clinton resignation

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — (BP, ABP, and special reports) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Paige Patterson, who also serves as president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., on Sept. 6 called on fellow Southern Baptist Bill Clinton to resign the presidency "for the sake of the country."

Secular news reports indicated Patterson made the call for Clinton's resignation during a sermon at First Church, Linden, N.C., where he had been invited to preach.

No other details of Patterson's remarks were available by the deadline for publication.

Clinton has encountered intense criticism since admitting Aug. 17 in a nationally-televised address that he had an "inappropriate" relationship with a White House intern, a charge he had vehemently denied for more than seven months.

Patterson joined Richard Land, head of the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, in calling for the president to leave office.

Land went a step further, recommending that after Vice-President Al Gore, also a Southern Baptist, assumes the presidency, he should nominate former U.S. president and fellow Southern Baptist Jimmy Carter to the vice-presidency.

Land also suggested that if President Clinton truly apologized before he resigned, then-President Gore should immediately issue a presidential pardon to former President Clinton in order for the country to put this tragic episode behind.

Meanwhile, Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr.'s criticism of Clinton's home church, Immanuel Church in Little Rock, for not disciplining the president has sparked heated debates on the role of church discipline and whether Mohler should be injecting himself into local church matters.

Mohler, in a monthly commentary piece in Religion News Service, wrote Aug. 24 that Immanuel has enabled Clinton to "claim to be a Southern Baptist" while continuing his "public display of serial sin" because the church has not practiced biblical discipline.

"Southern Baptists will be watching the Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock to see if it musters the courage to make clear its own convictions," Mohler wrote.

Like many churches, Immanuel has not practiced public discipline, including the removal of members from the church, in recent decades, two staff members confirmed to Baptist Press Aug. 26.

Mark Wingfield, editor of The Western Recorder, newjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, editorialized on Sept. 1 that Mohler's stance "crosses the line from a free church tradition to a hyper-hierarchical church tradition."

"In the authentic Baptist tradition, no one — no seminary president, no denominational official, no editor, no pope — has the right or authority to tell a local church how to handle its business."

Wingfield contended, "It is one thing to criticize the president directly for his moral failure and his lack of contrition. That is something I and many others of Christian conviction have done over the last two weeks. But it is another thing entirely to then attempt to instruct the president's church on how they ought to relate to him as a member."

Those who say his call for Immanuel to discipline Clinton violates local church

autonomy, Mohler said in an Aug. 26 interview with Baptist Press, ignore "the fact that I have no power to force Immanuel Baptist Church to take any action, nor does the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) have any power to force the congregation to exercise church discipline."

"But it is by no means improper to call upon this church to exercise this most basic responsibility."

"Southern Baptists at the end of the 20th century have a very odd understanding of local church autonomy," he added. "Records of associational minutes and other Baptist documents demonstrate that Baptist bodies did openly encourage (in the past) churches to exercise discipline in cases of public sin."

"Unfortunately, the church has grown accustomed to a level of worldliness and seems to have lost all courage in church discipline," Mohler said.

Mississippian James Sullivan, retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board and former two-term SBC president, told Associated Baptist Press he is aware of no other cases where the SBC or an SBC agency head has sought to have a church discipline a member.

"I can't see that it is provided for in our polity system," said Sullivan, author of "Baptist Polity: As I See It."

Sullivan acknowledged church discipline, more popular in the past, is seldom practiced today. It fell from favor, he said, because "many churches had trouble distinguishing between the practical application of church discipline and the desire for revenge."

"It scared most of our churches off of discipline altogether, which I think is unwise," he said.

Clinton has been a member of Immanuel Church since July 1980, according to church records.

When there has been a moral transgression, the church has handled it as a private matter between "a minister and the individual," associate pastor David Napier told Baptist Press.

Rex Horne, Immanuel's senior pastor the last eight years, has not divulged what he has said to Clinton about admitted or alleged sexual sins, Napier said.

Horne has said in the past he has told Clinton of his disagreement with him over some moral issues, such as abortion.

Horne has declined to grant interviews with reporters since Clinton's admission, a church staff member said.

Horne issued a written statement Aug. 25, noting: "The recent admission of immoral conduct by the president is grievous. His actions are indefensible and inexcusable."

They are not, however, unforgivable. I pray the president will find the grace of God which comes upon confession of sin and the peace which comes from a restored relationship with our Lord."

In his Aug. 22 weekly column for Little Rock's daily newspaper, Horne said the future will demonstrate whether the president was sincere in his Aug. 17 admissions to the country.

"Our country faces a crisis," Horne wrote in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. "Now, I'm well aware that there are people who will never be satisfied by anything the president says or does. I also know that there are people who — no matter what the president does, whether it's right or wrong — would defend him and say that it doesn't matter."

"Well, things do matter and our lives and choices matter. Our character matters. Was the president sincere? God knows and the days ahead will reveal it. People of faith need to be full of both grace and truth. Better still to be full of the one who is grace and truth."

Immanuel, with more than 4,500 members, is one of the largest churches in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC).

It consistently has been the leader in the state in total gifts to the Cooperative Program (CP), the SBC's giving plan. Last year, Immanuel gave more than \$450,000 to CP to rank first in the state, an ABSC staff member said.

In another development, Wingfield's editorial apparently prompted Southern Seminary faculty members to pass a resolution by a 32-3 vote, with one abstention, in support of Mohler's position.

The faculty resolution stated, "Dr. Mohler's urgency about discipline exactly conforms to the biblical principles and Baptist practice of corporate holiness."

The faculty also noted, "Exhortations from individuals and associations of churches have been prominent in Baptist history and constitute no violation of church autonomy."

Angered Muslim leaders preparing to cite Clinton's moral lapses, Islamic experts say

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Muslims angered by the bombings of Afghanistan and Sudan are pointing to President Bill Clinton's moral failings as an example of Christianity's shortcomings, according to three Southern Baptist experts on Islamic affairs.

George Braswell, professor of missions and world religions at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., said Islamic peoples have seen similar moral failures among their leaders.

While not condoning it, they are prevented from speaking out by pressure and political force, said Braswell, author of "Islam: Its Prophet, Peoples, Politics & Power," released in 1996 by Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Braswell said Iran, Pakistan, and other militant countries stand ready to exploit any perceived American weakness.

"They're attacking Christianity through the president because he said he's a Christian," noted Samuel Shahid, director of the Islamic Studies Center at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and a native of Palestine who formerly taught at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Lebanon. "They're attacking him as a person and, through him, our faith."

Ironically, Muslims may put a positive slant on the president's troubles because it shows the validity of their belief in multiple wives, observed Southern Baptist evangelist Anis Shorosh, a graduate of Clarke College and

Mississippi College, and author of the book, "Islam Revealed," now headed into its sixth printing with Thomas Nelson Publishers.

"The fact is, their hypocrisy is obvious," Shorosh said. "They have prostitution by license. Not only can you elect to have four wives, you can have as many concubines as you can afford."

Shorosh — who will debate Muslim advocates this October in California — said the Islamic world has widespread problems with homosexuality.

Moderate Muslim leaders support America's actions because they feel equally threatened by fundamentalists, Shorosh said. The fundamentalist fanatics divide the world into two camps, he said, the houses of war and peace.

"The greatest proof of the wickedness of Islam is Afghanistan and Somalia — no safety, peace, or respect for women or children; devastation, division, and destruction," he said. "Can any Muslim provide evidence that Islam would have grown without the sword back in the seventh century?"

While taking a less-strident stance, Braswell said fundamentalist Muslims' policy of "jihad," or holy war, has serious, worldwide implications for the 21st century.

Trends in places like Europe and America, where Muslims now outnumber Jews, show Islamic believers want to establish themselves as the dominant religion and political class, Braswell said.

Churches to receive comp newspapers

Beginning with this issue of The Baptist Record, every cooperating church of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will receive a complimentary copy of the newspaper each week.

This action is being provided as a service to Mississippi Baptist churches participating in the Cooperative Program, and also to streamline the massive church mailing list maintained by staff of The Baptist Record.

The mailing label on the complimentary copy will show only the name of the church and the address on file, rather than a person's name. Individual subscribers and churches that participate in the church subscription plans will not be affected.

For more information contact Renee Walley, circulation manager for The Baptist Record, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Margaret Lackey Season of September

Margaret Lackey Offering provides Choctaw pianists

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

It's September, but Vivian Hamilton is already thinking about the brisk fall days of October. On Saturdays starting next month, she will add 13 piano students to an already-heavy teaching load at Philadelphia elementary and high schools, and 11 private students.



AT THE KEYBOARD — Since 1990, Vivian Hamilton has taught students from New Choctaw Association churches to play the piano. Her work is supported by the Margaret Lackey Offering. (Photo by Carl M. White)

She doesn't mind. As a matter-of-fact, she loves it. "I feel like it is the Lord's will for each church to have a musician — a pianist," she said.

With the help of the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions, Hamilton has been giving piano lessons to students from the New Choctaw Association churches since 1990.

For eight months, October-May,

Hamilton teaches thirteen 30-minute lessons on Saturdays, starting at 8 a.m. In June, she and her students have a recital at Pearl River Church, "because their building is so big and nice."

Students from the New Choctaw churches turn in applications to Arthur Ben, director of missions (DOM) of New Choctaw Association. He selects one from each church to take piano.

"Some of my students are as old as 50," Hamilton said. Others are children.

They typically take lessons for four years, though younger students will take longer.

Some of Hamilton's students have experienced great success. Elijah Ben, grandson of Arthur Ben, started taking when he was in the eighth grade.

"His church had no accompanists," Hamilton

remembered. "Elijah had a keyboard and could play some, but he could not read music."

"I said to him, 'If I teach you through a fast method to play hymns, will you come back next year and take lessons?' He said 'yes.'"

"In seven months Elijah learned to play every hymn in the singing convention book and in the Baptist Hymnal they use.

"His grandfather said Elijah is very smart. Plus, he would practice four to five hours a day."

Elijah was playing the piano at Beacon Street Church when he asked Hamilton to teach him to play the organ.

She did. Soon the church purchased an organ and Elijah began playing it.

"Now the church has both an organ and a piano," she said.

"When Elijah finished high school, he went to East Central Community College and got an associate degree in music. Now he is at Delta State University pursuing a degree in piano," Hamilton said, with a touch of pride in her voice.

Another outstanding student is 10th grader Camron Sockey.

"He has been taking from me now for 3 or 4 years," she said.

This past year Hamilton entered Camron in the National Federation of Music Clubs Junior Division Piano Festival. Camron earned an all-superior rating in the hymn playing event, the highest rating possible.

Camron plays at Hopewell Church. "He reads music well from the hymn book and can sight read well," Hamilton said as she showed off a local newspaper clipping telling of Camron's successes.

Hamilton loves what she's doing. "I get such enthusiasm when I know Camron is playing for a church. I just get excited," she said.

Part of her dedication to teaching these students comes from a childhood experience.

"When I was a little girl my mother brought home a piano, but I waited for three years to take piano lessons." Hamilton doesn't want eager students to have to wait for a chance to take piano.

One of her former students, an adult, asked to be part of the program because so many previous students had been young and had eventually moved away. She was not going to go anywhere.

"I taught her to play, and now she is teaching others," Hamilton said. She recently had a rummage sale to raise money to allow two poor students the opportunity to take piano lessons.

"There was a time when I would have to make room on my schedule for Choctaw funerals and weddings and such. There just wasn't anybody prepared to play for a wedding," Hamilton said.

Now, there are many, she added.

"My husband, Sidney, says I have been with the Choctaws for so long that they think I am one of them!"

1997 Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions

TOTAL GIFTS

1. First, Jackson	\$21,563.80
2. Calvary, Tupelo	13,334.87
3. First, Brandon	10,720.01
4. First, Clinton	10,713.31
5. First, Gulfport	9,934.87
6. Alta Woods, Jackson . . .	8,857.62
7. First, Tupelo	7,029.50
8. Harrisburg, Tupelo	6,955.00
9. Parkway, Clinton	6,932.50
10. First, Kosciusko	6,383.25

PER MEMBER GIFTS

1. Oak Grove, Lake	\$88.00
2. Grace, Philadelphia	33.79
3. Knoxo, Tylertown	23.26
4. Cayce, Byhalia	23.08
5. First, Macon	21.39
6. Pleasant Hill, Union Church .	21.09
7. Yellow Leaf, Oxford	18.89
8. Mt. Pisgah, Enid	18.00
9. Mt. Vernon, Minter City . .	17.65
10. Neshoba, Union	15.75

1998 Margaret Lackey

New Missions	174,000	Crim
Central Hills	240,000	Pasto
Camp Garaywa	240,000	Stude
Disaster Relief	35,000	Work
Spec. Min. to Multi-Cultural	8,000	Missi
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ts '97 Margaret Lackey Offering funds state's ministries

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The 1997 Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions, a record \$810,096 and more than \$56,000 above the previous year's offering, was put to good use around the state of Mississippi.

Funding was provided to a number of the state's newer churches to help them purchase property for their growth.

Deerfield Mission in Metro Association received \$125,000 toward the purchase of property. Likewise, Riverside Mission in Golden Triangle Association received \$40,000 and Hillview Mission in Carroll County received \$15,000 for the purchase of property.

Last year's Margaret Lackey offering also provided support for the 12 mobile chapels owned by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and placed throughout the state as temporary facilities for churches in need.

The Margaret Lackey Offering also provided crucial funding for the state's two Baptist campgrounds.

At Central Hills Retreat — the state Baptist Royal Ambassadors campground near Kosciusko — more than 1,500 people attended conferences in 1997 that resulted in 116 professions of faith, 229 rededications, and 28 life vocation commitments.

At Camp Garaywa — the state Baptist Girls in Action campground in Clinton — more than 125 professions of faith were recorded among the 2,265 campers who attended Garaywa events in 1997.

The record-setting 1997 Margaret Lackey Offering also enabled \$60,000 in additional funding to be contributed toward Patterson Place, the new adult lodge currently under construction at Garaywa.

The Margaret Lackey Offering also made possible a number of prison ministries around the state, such as providing Bibles, assisting families of inmates, pre- and post-release care, a corrections employee assistance program, and help for victims of crime.

In 1997, Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood disaster relief teams were dispatched to four different locations, and the Margaret Lackey Offering help make those emergency responses possible.

Thirty volunteers fed more than 5,000 meals to victims of flooding in Vicksburg. Six volunteers went to Arkansas to assist in cleanup after a tornado, while at the same time six more volunteers were in North Dakota to provide child care for families displaced by flooding. Ten volunteers went to Lexington to help victims of flash floods in that area.

There was much more to the 1997 Margaret Lackey Offering, including:

- ♦ student work and ministries to internationals.

- ♦ piano lessons for Choctaw native American children.

- ♦ payment of one-half of the cost of Choctaw children attending summer camps at Central Hills and Garaywa.

For more information on the Season of Prayer for State Missions, contact Mississippi WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

For more information on state missions projects, contact the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Dept. at the above address and telephone numbers.

Compiled from information contained in "As We Come and Go in Mississippi," by Lois Henderson.

AS WE
COME
& GO
IN MISSISSIPPI

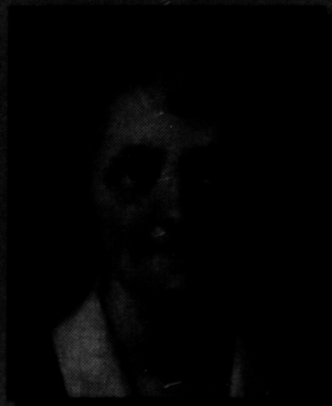


Dawn breaks through the frame of Patterson Place, the adult lodge under construction at Clinton's Camp Garaywa. With completion of the lodge Camp Garaywa, the state Baptist Girls in Action campground, will be able to fully host adult meetings and conferences year-round. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Margaret Lackey: a passion for Mississippi missions

Margaret McRae Lackey was born in Copiah County in about 1850, the fifth of nine children born to James and Elizabeth Lackey.

She grew up doing what most girls in Mississippi did in that era. She played games, went to school, and did her chores at home. She went on to attend Hillman College in Clinton where she studied to be a teacher. She later taught for many years in Mississippi schools.



Portrait of Lackey

Lackey, who never married, had a deep love for missions that spread the gospel message of Jesus Christ to people who had never heard of the Savior. She used her teaching skills to help the children in her church share her love for missions.

She also enjoyed writing poems and mission study materials so that other Christians could understand the importance of missions.

In 1912, Lackey became the first paid leader of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Her passion for missions was obvious to all who met her.

She once wrote, "Sisters, we have done passing well this year. But, oh, the untouched multitude of women and children in Mississippi whose souls are crying silently yet know not for what they are crying."

Lackey retired in 1930 from her position

as corresponding secretary of Mississippi WMU.

In 1903, Mississippi WMU began a special annual observance to emphasize the importance of state missions. That special observance eventually grew into the Season of Prayer for State Missions.

In 1935, the offering taken during the Season of Prayer for State Missions was named in honor of the person who today remains one of Mississippi Baptists' outstanding leaders: the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions.

For more information on the 1998 Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions, contact Mississippi WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Source: Mississippi WMU

Lackey Offering goal

Criminal Justice Ministry	50,000
Pastor/Church Building Aid	45,000
Student Work, Black Students.....	20,000
Work with Internationals	9,000
Missions Awareness.....	5,000
GOAL.....	\$826,000

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Donnie Jones received his license to the ministry on Aug. 16 at Calvary Church, Waynesboro. He is a student at William Carey College. Pictured with Jones (right) is Doug Broome, pastor.

Steve Jackson, pastor of McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl, was awarded the 1997 Friends of Discipleship award during the Growing Churches Through Discipleship and Family Ministry Conference, held at Gulfshore Assembly, July 30-Aug. 1. This award is presented each year by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Marcus Peagler, director. "Jackson serves as an area representative for our department. All of our consultants agree that Jackson has a heart for Discipleship and he continues year after year to promote Discipleship in his church, association, and state," said Peagler. Pictured are Jackson (left) and Peagler (right).



Steve Jackson and Marcus Peagler

Liberty Church, Newton County, recently held deacon ordination services to ordain Joseph M. Kennedy and James C. Sibley. J. B. Costilow is pastor.

Florida Baptist Theological College (FBTC) has named

Mississippian **Robin Jumper** as the first occupant of the Hollinger Chair of Evangelism and Missions, the first endowed chair of the institution. Several years ago, FBTC was named as one of the primary beneficiaries of the Hollinger Trust. Jumper has received an in rank promotion as assistant professor and has led innovative mission trips for students to Barbados. Jumper, a native of Etta, received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served at Little Bahala Church, Wesson, and Wellman Church, Bogie Chitto, for a total of eight years



Jumper

REVIVAL DATES

Temple, Jackson: Sept. 13-16; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Grenn, Columbia, evangelist; David Hopkins, Temple Church, music; Scott Worley, pastor.

Mt. Zion, Brookhaven: Sept. 13-17; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Tim McCaffrey, pastor, evangelist; Mike and Angela Britt, Mt. Zion Church, music.

First, McLaurin: Sept. 13-17; David Shofner, Petal, evangelist; Ronnie Clemts, Brooklyn, music; for more information, call Carlis Braswell, pastor, at (601) 583-9941.

Bolton, Bolton: Sept. 13-16; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Allen Stephens, director of missions, Rankin Association, evangelist; Rell Webber, Bolton, music; Cliff Nelson, pastor.

Oral, Sumrall: Sept. 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; George Berger, Lebanon Association, evangelist; David Kinsey, Oral, music; George G. Aultman, interim pastor.

West Laurel (Jones): Oct. 4-7; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. and noon; David Miller, Heber Springs, Ark., evangelist; Floyd Grice, West Laurel Church, music; Cary Worthington, pastor.

First, Picayune: Oct. 11-14; services, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m.; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; and Wed., 6 p.m.; Rex Yancey, Pascagoula, evangelist; Brad and Tammy Jones, music; Bill Hardin, pastor.



Robinhood Church, Brandon, licensed Billy Joe Gibbs to the ministry on Aug. 9. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Gibbs of Forest. Pictured are James Hurst, chairman of deacons; Evelyn Gibbs; Billy Joe Gibbs; and Don Nerren, pastor.

WCC to honor Kennedy

The Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students of William Carey College will host a reception honoring **Larry Kennedy** upon his appointment as president



Kennedy

on Thursday, Sept. 24, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Bank of Mississippi on the corner of Hardy and West Pine streets in Hattiesburg.

There will be musical entertainment and Kennedy will address the crowd. Formal inauguration ceremonies will be held in the spring.

For more information contact Iris Easterling at (601) 582-6193.

Revival results

Old Union, Shannon (Lee): Aug. 11-13; 27 professions of faith; Ronnie Owens, Tazewell, Tenn., evangelist; Wade Murphy, Plantersville, music; Kenneth Kelly, pastor.

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PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER: FBC-Oloh, Sumrall, MS. Responsible for working with children, youth and adult choirs. Mail

resume to 36 Oloh Church Road, Sumrall, MS 39482 - ATTN Music Minister Search Committee.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH AND EDUCATION: First Baptist Church, Terry, MS. Send resume to Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 159, Terry, MS 39170. For more information call: John H. Pace, Jr., Pastor, at 601-878-5735.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC for active rural church. Send resumes to Minister of Music Search Committee, 1112 Cato Road, Mendenhall, MS 39114.



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JUST FOR THE RECORD

A team of 31 people represented Calhoun Association on this summer's mission project in Creswell, Oregon. Wayne Gullett, director of missions, reports that the team was successful in framing the building. "We raised all the walls, put on outside wall board, raised the trusses, put on decking and the roof, having the

new sanctuary almost completed on the outside. We enrolled 57 people in two Backyard Bible Clubs," said Gullett. Sam Morgan, formerly of Calhoun County, is pastor of the New Hope Church in Oregon. The team consisted of (alphabetical order): Rex Ard, Jerry Baker, Laura Baker, James Caulder, William Chandler, Jeana Chandler, B. J. Doler, Jud and

Peggy Dudley, H. C. and Bobbie Dunnam, Perry Goodson, Jackie and Becky Grier, Wayne and Tillie Gullett, Joey Hamilton, Jerry Hamilton, Tony and Dot Hardin, Rod and Mitt Hitt, James Howell, Fred and Faye Nabors, Robert Norman, Thomas Rex and Martha Kate Phillips, Lillian Russell, Danny Spratlin, and Lenon White.

Calhoun Association mission team



Calvary Church, West Point, recently celebrated the burning of a \$175,000 note. The note, used to complete a \$1.2 million worship center two years ago, was paid off in 18 months. Pictured (from left) are James Tribble, George Pearson, and Charles Eubanks, trustees; and Martin Steelman, pastor.



Calvary, West Point



Lexie Church, Waltham Association, held Acteen recognition service recently. The theme was "Being Changed From the Inside Out." Acteens (from left) are Queen, Aaron Conerly; Queen with Scepter, Amanda Hill and Emily Polk; Queen Regent, Jade Brock, Kayla Brock, Jennifer Conerly, and Kamie Dillon. Randall Griffin is pastor.

Briar Hill Church, Florence, will dedicate its new auditorium building on Sept. 13. Plans for the day are Sunday School at 9 a.m., worship at 10 a.m., and the special dedication service at 1:30 p.m. The church was founded in 1888, and the building constructed that year was in

continuous use until it was removed in 1996 to make room for the new facility. Educational buildings constructed in 1980 and 1987 were also tied in with the new construction, making one structure of about 33,000 square feet that will provide for worship, educational, music, and office needs. Briar Hill Church, with about 725 members, currently averages 325 to 350 in morning worship attendance. The new auditorium will comfortably seat 600 to 650 persons. Malcolm Pinion is pastor.

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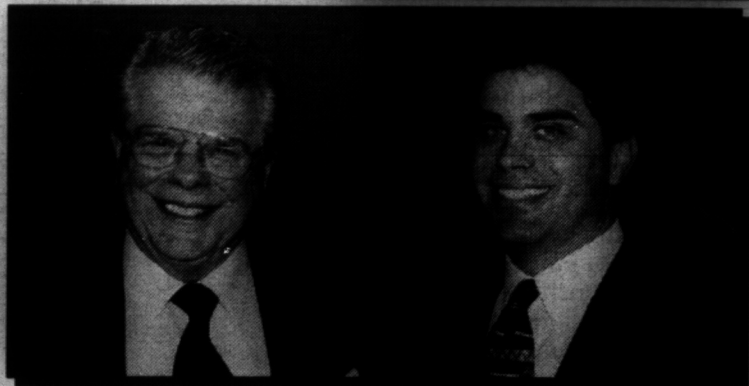
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BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



Hardy Denham, left, director of Church Relations at William Carey College, speaks with **Daniel Caldwell**, right, a native of Caledonia, at a faculty meeting held recently on the Hattiesburg campus. Caldwell will serve as the new vice president of church relations and dean of the Cooper School of Missions.

William Carey College (WCC) appointed **Brenda Waldrip** as vice president of student services. A native of Hattiesburg, Waldrip, a faculty member at WCC since 1977, received her education at the University of Southern Mississippi.



Waldrip

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College is offering:

- Law School Admission Test, Sept. 8-Sept. 22.
- Graduate Record Exam, Sept. 26-Oct. 1 and Oct. 24-Nov. 3.

• ACT Assessment, four review sessions will be held in preparation for the test date of Oct. 24. For more information and registration call the Office of Continuing Education at (601) 925-3264.



William Carey College appointed **Denise Brown** as academic dean; and **Jerry Bracey** as administrative dean of the Gulfport campus. Brown and Bracey are both from Ocean Springs.

Franklin Haire, retired minister, dies

Franklin Haire, 74, died Aug. 29 at St. Dominic's Hospital in Jackson. Funeral services were held Aug. 31 at Providence Church in Franklin County with burial in the church cemetery.

Haire was born in Leitchfield, Ky. He was a retired minister having spent over 50 years as pastor of several churches. He began his ministry in Franklin County at Eddiceton Church and pastored at Ramah, Lucien, Hopewell, Siloam, and Providence churches, all in Franklin County. He retired from Providence Church after serving there for 33 years. After retirement, he continued to minister as interim pastor to several churches including Union Church, Union Church, where he was a member. He also served as interim pastor at Ridgecrest Church, Ridgecrest, La.

In addition to his ministry, he taught high school, was a college professor, and a guidance counselor at Franklin



Haire

High School when he retired.

Survivors include his wife **Nell Yarborough Haire** of Union Church; sons, **Truett Haire** of Gulfport, **Alan Haire** of Birmingham, Ala., and **Timmy Haire** of Union Church; daughters,

Nan Maxwell of Huntington Beach, Calif., **Cela Hudson** of Baton Rouge, La., and **Nola Curtis** of Kosciusko; brother, **Clay Haire** of Pearl; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

HOMECOMINGS

Furrs (Pontotoc): Sept. 13; Homecoming and Senior Adult Day; **Scotty Witcher**, morning message; lunch at noon; 1:30 p.m. singing with **Scotty** and the **Nolan Brothers**, and the **Witness Quartet**; **Walter Simmons** is pastor.

New Prospect, Brookhaven: Sept. 13; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; 1:30 p.m. service; **Jerry Jackson**, former pastor, speaker; **Edward Rhinewalt**, music; **Willie Welch**, pastor.

Southside, Benoit: Sept. 20; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; **James Jeffreys**, former pastor, guest speaker; **David Lee** and **Robert Haney**, both former pastors to share memories following lunch, and **Johnson Trio**, Greenville, in concert; **Michael Ray Bird**, pastor.

Fairhaven, Olive Branch: Sept. 20; 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall followed by singing at 1:30 in the afternoon; **Jack Price**, pastor; **Lemoyne Brigrance**, music minister.

Damascus, Hazlehurst: Sept. 20; morning worship with **Wayne Rowan**; lunch following services; **Mary Cox McCain**.

Monticello, will open the singing at 1:30 p.m. and **New Wine, Magee**, will be featured singers; **David Patterson**, pastor.

Alexander Memorial, James Crossing, Hollandale: 55th anniversary; Sept. 13; 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; **Buddy Hampton**, former pastor, guest speaker; **Mary Alice Davis**, music.

First, Itta Bena: Oct. 11; 10:30 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; **Wilbur Webb**, Jackson, guest speaker; **Jessie Bennett**, **Madden**, music; Oct. 10, Night of Praise, 7 p.m., with **Andy Cummings**, **Jessie Bennett**, **Chuck McMinn**, **Charles Murphey**; **Higdon Herrington**, pastor.

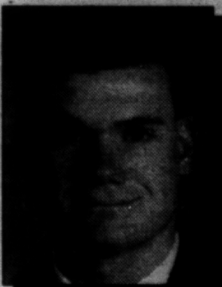
STAFF CHANGES

Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, has called **Bevin Creel** as part-time youth/music assistant, and **Shari Barnes** as children's minister, both effective in September. **Creel**, a native of Franklinton, La., and a graduate of Mississippi College, previously served as pianist and summer assistant to the youth minister. **Barnes**, a native of Jackson, received her education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. She was children's coordinator for Inner City Jackson for seven years. **Byron R. Malone** is pastor.

First Church, Bay St. Louis, recently called **Richard Johnson** as pastor. He is currently a member of the faculty of New

Orleans Seminary as an instructor of New Testament and Greek. He received his education at The American School in London, United Kingdom; University of Southwestern Louisiana; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and New Orleans Seminary.

Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia, has called **Justin Howell** as pastor effective Aug. 2. He previously served as interim pastor at East Salem Church in Leakesville.



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Ephesians 1:18-21; 3:14-21

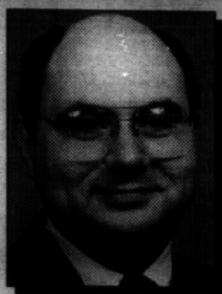
By Michael D. Johnson

A casual reading and review of recent newspaper headlines provides a dismal commentary on life today. Terrorists killing hundreds of innocent people, children killing children, and scandal at the highest levels of government are just a few of the concerns which have gripped our attention these last few months. For many, these national events mirror a sense of disaster and helplessness that people find present in their personal lives. This week's lesson provides insights which enable people to rise above daily circumstances by accessing true power for daily living.

Chapters 1 and 3 of our study presents two prayers that Paul offered on behalf of

the Ephesians. Let us seek to understand Paul's petitions as we incorporate them into our personal prayers for ourselves and our world.

For hope (1:18). The call Christians have experienced for conversion is also a call to live in the future. Professing faith in Christ is not the end, but the beginning. God is the God of the future and because God is there calling us forth we can move forward in our daily tasks with great confidence. Christ's resurrection allows us to embrace all of our tomorrows as a wonderful opportunity to join God through Christ in making positive changes first for ourselves, and then through us for society.



Johnson

For power (1:19-21). If there is any question about the possibility of living life with hope Paul reminds us of the incredible power that God poured out through Christ. There was resurrection power — the ability to overcome death; ascension power — the ability to be with God;

and dominion power — the ability to control all things. Paul asserts that if we profess to have Christ in our lives, then we also have access to this same power. What terror does death hold for those certain of eternal life? What circumstance can shake us when we live in the presence of God? What task becomes too great when we have God's power with us?

For strength (3:16). Paul understood human nature as being composed of the flesh and the inner mind where the true personality resides (2 Corinthians 4:16). The word Paul is using for strength

refers to the inner mind which must be constantly fortified or braced against anything that would push against it. Any athlete will testify to the truth that mental toughness is just as critical, if not more so, than the ability to meet the physical demands.

For commitment (3:17). Accepting Christ into one's life is not a temporary situation. It is a permanent and complete condition. This means that every aspect of life must be turned over to Christ — physical, mental, spiritual, financial, social, and personal. Christ gave his all; can we do less in return?

For comprehension (3:18-19a). The phrase 'rooted and grounded' are mixed metaphors which convey the picture of stability. As we grow in the love of God we better understand the nature of God which is love. The more we incorporate the above mentioned qualities into our daily living, we become more firmly

established in the love of God. Because God first loved us we have the capacity to understand and consequently act in love towards others.

For completion (3:19b-21). Certainly there is an understanding that we will never experience the fullness of God this side of eternity. We can, however, become channels of God's love towards others as we are filled with his presence.

The gospels are very clear about the kind of life the followers of Christ are to lead. We have not been called to stumble through life susceptible to every ill wind that might blow us down! Rather we have been challenged to be light-bearers, commanded to shine from the highest hill, keeping an open house, and being generous with our lives (see Matthew 5:14-16, The Message). In order to do this, however, we must prayerfully seek God's power.

Johnson is a professor in the Christian Studies and Philosophy Department at Mississippi College.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

God equips leaders for deliverance

Exodus 3:11-14; 4:1-5, 10-12

By Walter M. Blackman

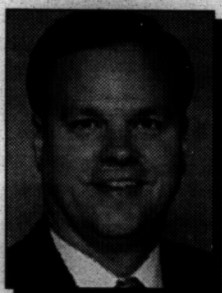
Two men went fishing on Sunday. In the distance, they heard the church bells ringing. One said, "You know Sam, we really ought to be in church." Sam baited his hook and replied, "Well, I couldn't go anyway, my wife is sick."

We are all guilty of making excuses to justify our actions or inaction. Moses was no exception. The Lord appeared to Moses, called him to lead the Israelites out of their bondage in Egypt and back to the land of promise. Moses gave at least five excuses to the Lord why he did not believe he was the man for

God's job. From God's answers we learn how God equips us to fulfill his call to leadership upon our lives.

God equips with his presence (3:11-14). In response to God's call, Moses asked, "Who am I that I should go...?" God answered Moses by saying, "I will be with you." In God's kingdom, it is not important who we are, but who God is.

Moses asked God, "What is your name?" God answered by saying, "I AM WHO I AM." The name "I AM" speaks to the sufficiency of God for whatever is needed to fulfill his will in our lives. Jesus would expand on the



Blackman

name in the Gospel of John by saying, "I AM the Good Shepherd, I AM the Way, the Truth, the Life, I AM the Light, I AM the Door, and I AM the Resurrection."

God's presence and his name gave Moses all the authority necessary to carry out the mission.

The same elements are found in the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 where Jesus told his disciples to go in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and in going, to know he would be with them always. God's presence equips us for any mission he sends us to do.

God equips with his power (4:1-5). Moses was afraid of the people's response to his leadership and calling. He was fearful they would not believe and perhaps not listen. People use the same excuses in church to justify their silence about sharing the

Gospel or accepting leadership roles. We should not be concerned about the response of others, but focus on doing the will of God. The rod of Moses was a demonstration of God's ability to provide the necessary power to accompany his Word. Whatever is in our hand can become whatever God wants it to become when we are obedient to his call. We must lead with the power of God, not by our own abilities.

God equips with his provision (4:10-12). Moses saw himself as a poor speaker. He used his slowness of speech and tongue as a reason to excuse himself from God's call. God promised to be with his mouth and to teach him what to say.

One of the great examples of God's ability to provide effective speech over natural limitations is evangelist David Ring. He was born slow of speech and tongue, having cerebral palsy, but countless people have been won to the Lord because he believed in the

provision of God to give him the ability to speak. Jesus told his disciples not to worry about what to say when they obeyed God's call to proclaim the Gospel, for the Holy Spirit would provide the words at moment they spoke (Matt 10:19).

We should not look at our own significance and abilities to determine if we will commit to God's call to leadership. We should not worry about how others will respond to our calling. Any weakness or limitations we have only allow the Lord to reveal his power more perfectly in our lives (2 Cor 12:7-10).

God calls us to lead others to Christ and to disciple others to be on mission with him. When we obey God's call, he will be with us, he will empower us, and he will provide for us. What God needs from us is our commitment to do whatever he calls us to do.

Blackman is pastor of First Church, Marion.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

The intervention of God

Exodus 2:23-25; 5:1-2; 12:29-32; 15:1-2

By Greg Bowers

Does God really care about our problems? Does he hear our cries for help? Some see God as an "unmoved mover," i.e. someone who can do great deeds but who is unaffected by our needs and concerns. Others view God like a watchmaker who set the universe into motion and then left us to fend for ourselves. Some describe the God of the Old Testament as a God of vengeance and the God of the New Testament as a God of love. That is simply not true. The book of Exodus reminds us that God hears our cries and responds to them in his own way, in his own timing.

Freedom lost (2:23-25). In verse 23, Pharaoh dies, but even his death does nothing to ease the Hebrew's suffering. They cry to God for relief. The verse indicates that God is especially attentive to those in bondage. Verse 24 states that their groans reach God's ears and he remembers the covenant of blessing which he had made to the Patriarchs. Verse 25 is a beautiful verse. Just as God was concerned about his people 3300 years ago, he is concerned about them today. If you are in bondage, God is particularly concerned about you and wants to liberate you!



Bowers

Freedom denied (Exodus 3 and 4). These chapters contain Moses' experience with God at a burning bush. God tells him that he is ready to raise up a liberator and that Moses is to be that man. Moses offers excuses which kindle God's anger. Finally, God promises Aaron's assistance to Moses. They go to Egypt and win the Hebrews' trust through a series of dramatic miracles.

In 5:1-2, they approach Pharaoh (probably Raamses II). Their initial request seems rather harmless. They ask Pharaoh's permission to go into the desert to hold a festival. Pharaoh reacts in three ways: In verse 2, he refuses on the basis that he doesn't know the God about whom Moses and Aaron are speaking. In verse 3, he is indifferent to Moses and Aaron's assertion that the Hebrews will incur God's

judgment if they don't participate in the festival. In verse 4, he indicates his concern that giving the Hebrews leave will interrupt their work for him. This encounter angers Pharaoh to the extent that he greatly increases the Hebrew's workload.

Freedom granted (12:29-32). God used 10 plagues to break Pharaoh's will and demonstrate his power to his people. The 10th plague is the most severe because it affects the Egyptians emotionally and financially. From the royal palace to the crudest hut, every Egyptian family loses its firstborn child. Firstborn cattle were also killed. The Hebrews were spared because of their obedience to God's instructions. This national tragedy finally moves Pharaoh to action and he orders the Hebrews out of Egypt. Verse 32 contains an interesting phrase, "bless me also." Pharaoh is saying, in effect, "put a good word

in for me with your God."

Freedom achieved (15:1-2). After the Hebrews leave, Pharaoh realizes the economic impact of their departure and orders his chariots to recapture them. The Hebrews have reached the Red Sea and assume that they are trapped. They are literally "between the devil and the deep blue sea." God miraculously causes the sea to part and the Hebrews escape unharmed. The Egyptian warriors are killed when the waters recede. Once on the other side, God's people worship him for his protection and liberation. There are Psalms in the Bible outside of the book of Psalms. This is one such example. God's people sing his praises and magnify his wonderful power to sustain them through danger. Have you remembered to praise him for sustaining you through dangers and difficulties?

Bowers is pastor of First Church, Indianola.

'Experiencing God' set to go international

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Luis Aranguren sees only one workable strategy for carrying out his role as director of the new international department at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention — the "Experiencing God" way.

"We don't know enough about each country to say how we're going to make our resources available. We must look to see where God is working and join him there," Aranguren said, referring to a key scriptural principle in the popular discipleship materials.

Aranguren took the helm of the department in March of this year after serving as manager of leadership development in LifeWay's multicultural leadership department. Earlier he was associate pastor of education and administration at Primera Iglesia

Bautista de Coral Park in Miami and held management positions

with the Pillsbury Company in the U.S. and South America.

Aranguren served on the employee task force that laid the groundwork for enlarging LifeWay's distribution of resources outside the United States and Canada. When he was first approached about directing the new department, Aranguren was reluctant. He was finding fulfillment in leading training events for Hispanic church leaders. And then there was the scope of the task.

"The biggest challenge is the size. I can't put my arms around it. Sometimes I feel like David before Goliath," Aranguren said.

When he works with Latin American church leaders being introduced for the first time to resources such as Experiencing God or The Mind of Christ, he sees firsthand the needs and opportunities before him.

"When I'm in front of people who are hungry for growing and learning and they beg me for what we have, I understand what the Lord is calling us to do," Aranguren said.

The international department includes three components:

- ◆ International consulting with churches and missionaries.
- ◆ Sales and licensing of LifeWay resources.
- ◆ Field service (conferences and relationship building).

Four international consultants were named recently to serve in Europe, Africa, Singapore, and South America, working with

the International Mission Board and Aranguren. They will undergo missionary orientation this fall and begin reporting to their assignments in 1999.

The sales and licensing area will be headed by Jim Cook whose unit moves Oct. 1 from LifeWay's Broadman & Holman (B & H) division. Cook, who grew up in the Dominican Republic and speaks Spanish, has been representing B&H resources in Latin America and other parts of the world.

B&H is the largest distributor of Spanish Bibles through retail outlets in Latin America.

In addition to current sales and licensing personnel, a new representative, Daniel Mays, lives in Australia and will market LifeWay resources in English-speaking regions of the Pacific Rim.

Two field service consultants will work with book distributors, leading conferences on church leadership and introducing LifeWay resources. One, Luis Lopez of Nashville, began work Sept. 1.

Aranguren said a challenge in work outside the United States and Canada is the absence of networks for making resources available to churches. Therefore, he, Cook, and others make contact with book distributors who may already be selling B&H

Bibles and books and test their interest in marketing church resources such as Experiencing God, MasterLife, Jesus on Leadership, The Mind of Christ, and Step by Step Through the Old and New Testaments.

Interested distributors then set up four-hour leadership seminars for churches led by Aranguren.

The first half of the seminar focuses on strategies for strengthening leaders and then Aranguren shows how LifeWay resources can be used to implement leadership strategies.

The response in Guatemala, Mexico, and Venezuela has been phenomenal, Aranguren said.

In Venezuela, where he was discipled as a new Christian and later called to ministry, Aranguren led a seminar for some of the same leaders who had helped him grow spiritually.

In the coming months, Aranguren, Cook, and others will continue to look for new opportunities. Training events in South Africa, Argentina, and Puerto Rico are in the planning stages. B&H released a study Bible in Portuguese in September of this year.

"We're responding to invitations from other countries as they come," Cook said.

"That's the Experiencing God principle at work," he said.



SETTING UP SHOP— Luis Aranguren (left), director of the newly-created international department of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, talks with Jim Cook, who will move Oct. 1 from the Lifeway's Broadman & Holman division to manage international sales and licensing. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

Bibliocipher

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HQD BK WBVL BK PYOY-
AGYU SAW, DX DSYW
ZBGY SY NXCYP DX
HYOXWY DSY KXVK XT
ZXU, YGYV DX DSYW
DSBD HYRAYGY XV SAK
VBWY.

MXSV XZY: DCYRGY

Clue: O = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hosea Ten Twelve.

Poll: religious young people less likely to indulge vices

WASHINGTON (BP) — Young people who regularly attend religious services are less likely to use illegal drugs, smoke cigarettes, or drink alcohol, according to a survey released Sept. 1.

Such a result makes sense because religion's "culture-conserving power" is one of its most important contributions to society, a Southern Baptist specialist on substance abuse said of the report.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse's fourth annual back-to-school survey found of young people from ages 12-17:

- ◆ Only 13% of youth who attend religious services at least four times a month have smoked marijuana compared to 39% who attend religious services less than once a month;
- ◆ Only 8% who attend religious services at least four times a month smoked cigarettes compared to 22% who attend such services less than once a month;
- ◆ Only 19% who attend religious services at least four times a month consumed alcohol in the last month compared to 32% who attend services less than once a month.

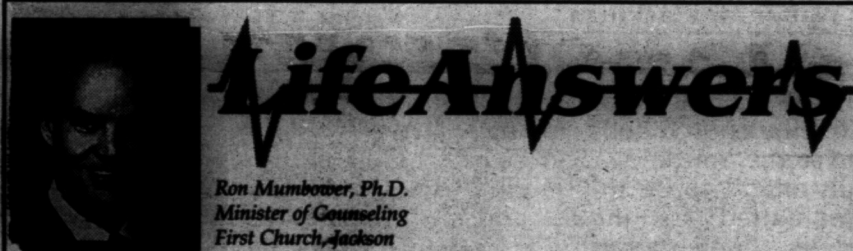
The survey also found adolescents who say religion is important to them are less likely to abuse alcohol and other drugs:

- ◆ Young people who get drunk at least once a month are twice as likely to say religion is not important in their lives than those who do not get drunk.
- ◆ Young people who smoke marijuana at least once a month are twice as likely to say religion is not important in their lives than those who do not smoke marijuana.

Barrett Duke of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) said the results are understandable because organized religion "provides the means to communicate a set of values from a previous generation to the current one."

"Religion teaches restraint and moral rectitude. These values are more dependable for guiding a teenager through the turbulent years of adolescence and the search for meaning," he said.

The survey was conducted in May, June and July of 1,000 young people age 12 to 17, as well as more than 800 teachers and 800 principals.



What does the Bible say about cremation?

There is no biblical reference to cremation except when the bodies of Saul and his sons were recovered and burned after their deaths in battle (1 Sam. 31). Some people believe cremation is a preferred way of returning to dust (Gen. 2:7), rather than being entombed in a permanent place. Other people encourage their loved ones to remember them as they were and not as the occupant of a cemetery plot, believing that when they die they are no longer a part of this earth. Not everyone agrees with these ideas, and cremation is not for everyone. Discuss the process with a funeral director, and discuss the idea with your pastor. Don't spring this on your family at your death. Make up your mind and prepare them by advising them of your decision. Cremation is one available option; be sure you are fully informed and aware of all your choices before you make this important decision.

How can I step outside this finite world of limitations and accept God on pure faith?

One good way to accept God on pure faith is to study his actions, as documented in Scripture. God does not fail, but rather walks along with us when we fail. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, reached out to rich and poor people alike, as well as politicians, beggars, and other sinners — including each one of us. Page after page in the Bible documents how God took ordinary people and taught them to do extraordinary things in his service. He can do the same for you. The record speaks for itself. Take time to see God's faithfulness to you from the very beginning. You may not have received what you wanted or expected, but in reality God has always been there. That's why it's so important to pray, "Not my will, Lord, but thine." God never changes, and it is on that fact that you can place your faith.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.